

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-92 (Cancelled)

93(Previously presented). A monoclonal antibody which binds to IGIF or IL-18 consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein Xaa is Met or Thr.

Claims 94-98 (Cancelled).

99(Previously presented). The monoclonal antibody of claim 93, which is labeled with a radiolabel, an enzyme, or a fluorophore.

100(Previously presented). The monoclonal antibody of claim 93, which is capable of inhibiting the biological activity of IGIF or IL-18.

Claims 101-103 (Cancelled).

104(Previously presented). A method for determining the presence of IGIF or IL-18 in a sample, comprising the steps of:

contacting a sample suspected to contain IGIF or IL-18 with the monoclonal antibody of claim 93 under conditions suitable to promote the specific binding of the monoclonal antibody to said IGIF or said IL-18 to form an immune complex; and

detecting any such immune complex which is so formed.

Claim 105 (Cancelled).

106(Previously presented). A method according to claim 104, wherein the monoclonal antibody is labeled with a radiolabel, an enzyme, or a fluorophore.

107(Previously presented). A method according to claim 104, further comprising the step of quantifying the amount of IGIF or IL-18 present in the sample.

Claims 108-115 (Cancelled).

116(Previously presented). A method of inhibiting the biological activity of IGIF or IL-18, comprising the step of contacting the monoclonal antibody of claim 93 with the IGIF or IL-18.

Claims 117-120 (Cancelled).

121(Previously presented). A system for detecting IGIF or IL-18, comprising a matrix or substrate on which the monoclonal antibody of claim 93 is immobilized.

122(Previously presented). The system of claim 121, wherein said monoclonal antibody is labeled with a radiolabel, an enzyme, or a fluorophore.

123(New). A method for producing a monoclonal antibody which binds to IGIF or IL-18 consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein Xaa is Met or Thr, said method comprising the steps of:

i) isolating a mouse liver cell capable of producing said IGIF or said IL-18;

ii) identifying a DNA encoding said IGIF or said IL-18 from said mouse liver cell isolated in step i);

iii) preparing said IGIF or said IL-18 by recombinant DNA technique using said DNA identified in step ii);

iv) preparing a hybridoma capable of producing said monoclonal antibody using said IGIF or said IL-18 prepared in step iii);

v) culturing said hybridoma prepared in step iv) in a nutrient culture media *in vitro* to produce said IGIF or said IL-18 in the culture; and

vi) collecting said IGIF or said IL-18 obtained in step v) from the culture.